



Wild News

The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Prince William Wildflower Society
A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2023-01

January — February 2023

Happy 40th Birthday,
PRINCE WILLIAM
WILDFLOWER SOCIETY!
Chartered on January 10, 1983

The Prince William Wildflower Society
Annual Member Slideshow
Thursday, January 5, 7:30 p.m.
Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, VA 20110

The January 5 program is our annual slide show, and we invite you to participate by sharing native plant and nature photos. If you have never shared your screen on Zoom and need some guidance, contact Nancy Vehrs, nvehrs1@yahoo.com, at least a few days ahead of the meeting so that you feel comfortable with the surprisingly easy technology. The Zoom will begin at 7 p.m. for Social Time, with the formal meeting and presentation scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpfuCgqDlvE9NSuD-eyE_RyVvK7WQuVBm After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

President's Column

As we come to the end of 2022, we can reflect on our activities this past year. We kicked off the year with a joint First Day Hike with the Prince William Conservation Alliance at Manassas National Battlefield Park's Brawner Farm area. We saw firsthand the area that would be affected by the Digital Gateway (data centers) along Pageland Road. Unfortunately, in November, the Board of County Supervisors voted for the Comprehensive Plan amendment that allows the Digital Gateway to proceed.

Our six regular program meetings began in January with our traditional annual member slideshow, our second in a row via Zoom. Janet Martinet, Janis Stone, Jeanne Endrikat, Marion Lobstein, and I all shared photos. In March we hosted landscape designer and Wood Thrush Nursery owner Ian Caton virtually for "Super Tough Wildflowers." Dr. Cindy Smith of George Mason University spoke on "Collectively Building Biodiversity" at our May meeting on Zoom. In July, Marion Lobstein and Judy Gallagher teamed up for a program on the "Fascinating Milkweeds and Their Relatives in Northern Virginia." I presented on "Autumn Wildflowers and Shrubs" at our annual meeting in September. All of our four officers were reelected for two-year terms. To complete our program year, Dr. Susan Leopold spoke on "Native Medicinal Plant Conservation in Virginia." All presentations were recorded through Zoom and are available on the VNPS website in our video gallery under the Resources heading. *(Continued)*



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Our special 2022 Author Event featured Kelly Norris coming to us from Iowa via Zoom on February 20 and attracting 160 participants of more than 300 registered. He is the author of *New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden*.

In a joint effort with Prince William County and local conservation organizations, we participated in the fourth annual Prince William Native Plant Symposium on February 12. Earth Sangha's Matt Bright was the keynote speaker for this virtual event that was attended by native plant gardeners far and wide.

Our Annual Spring Wildflower Garden tour was held Sunday, April 24, showcasing the gardens of Nancy Arrington, Shirley and Tom Attanaro, and Janet Wheatcraft. We held a Summer Garden Tour on July 30 that featured the private gardens of Cheryl Hancock and Val and Shane Neitzey. We also showcased the Teaching Garden of the Master Gardeners of Prince William at the Benedictine Monastery on Linton Hall Road. We thank all the gardeners and volunteers.

The annual plant sale was a soggy, cold affair on the morning of May 7 at Bethel Lutheran Church. Despite our challenges, Plant Sale Chair Nancy Arrington and her team of hearty volunteers sold more than \$4200 worth of native plants. Aside from occasional book sales, this is our only fundraiser and allows us more opportunities to engage beyond what our membership dues can fund.

Below, the well-watered Plant Sale team



In other outreach events, we participated in the well-attended Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area on April 10 organized by the Prince William Conservation Alliance. Education Chair Lois Montgomery led our participation at T. Clay Wood's annual STEAM event (STEM plus Arts) on April 28. She also headed our participation at the Second Annual Manassas Bee Festival on June 25. Other educational events included tabling at Lockheed Martin's Safety Day July 21, the October 15 Scout Camporee at Camp Snyder in Haymarket, and the Virginia Bluebird Society's Biannual Conference on November 12.



Above, participants at one of the monthly Merrimac nature walks

We held several walks over the course of the year and wish that we could lead more. Besides the Bluebell Festival and monthly nature walks at Merrimac, we co-sponsored a walk at Conway Robinson Memorial State Forest in Gainesville on March 6 where we found Hepatica in bloom and emerging Bluebell foliage. Marion Lobstein provided the checklists, and Janis Stone and I led a spring wildflower walk on April 14 along the Stone Bridge Trail in Manassas National Battlefield Park. Bert Harris of the Clifton Institute subbed for Marion and led our annual Deep Cut Meadow walk at Manassas Battlefield on August 26. In November we donated two sturdy benches for Deep Cut and dedicated one in honor of Marion, our botany chair extraordinaire. (See article and photos on Page 6.) (Continued)



Pictured right and below, Bert Harris and walk attendees at Deep Cut in August



(continued from page 2)

Besides all the previous activities, Conservation Chair Claudia Thompson-Deahl and I participated in bi-monthly meetings with other conservation groups to discuss the Digital Gateway and other data center proposals. We testified at public hearings (4 a.m., anyone?) and participated in press conferences as well.



(Pictured, Claudia Thompson-Deahl)

We advised Regency Garden Club about native plants for the Haymarket-Gainesville Library, made presentations to garden clubs, provided grants for some native plant projects, and held board meetings to keep the organization moving forward. Editor Brigitte Hartke produced six attractive and informative editions of *Wild News*. On behalf of PWWS, I served on the steering committee for the Plant NOVA Natives marketing campaign and helped with revisions for the 4th edition of *Native Plants for Northern Virginia*.

It has been another busy year! Let's hope that 2023 is even better. Happy Holidays!

Nancy

Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 3, 2022,
7:30 p.m. On Zoom

Nancy Vehrs, president of PWWS, called the meeting to order and introduced the speaker, Dr. Susan Leopold, an ethnobotanist. Susan's presentation was entitled, *Native Medicinal Plant Conservation in Virginia*.

Fun facts: Susan is a proud member of the Patowomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia and the author of the children's book *Isabella's Peppermint Flowers*.

Susan is also the executive director of United Plant Savers, and she stressed the mission is conservation of the forest plants, especially the woodland medicinals. Harvesting of some of these plants in the woods could cause loss of the entire community, and United Plant Savers provides resources, free classes and information on growing woodland medicinals at home. For example, ginseng can be grown easily from seeds. There was a discussion of people who dig and remove native forest medicinals, and it was pointed out, that in most county, state and national parks, removing anything (plants and/or animals) from the parks is illegal. Thank you, Dr. Leopold!

The Zoom program ended about 9 p.m.

Karen Waltman,
Secretary



PWWS

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Vacant

SAVE the DATES !

Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 2 pm — 11th Annual Author Event

Ruth Rogers Clausen, Author of *Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast* will speak at the Manassas Park Community Center

Saturday, April 8, 2023 - Annual Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm,
15020 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville, VA



UPCOMING EVENTS in 2023

Please note:

For events not scheduled at the time this issue went to press, please continue to visit the PWWS web page: vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/



Sunday, Jan. 29, and Feb. 26, 8 am, Bird and Nature Walk at Merrimac Farm, last Sunday of every month. Join us! We will look for birds as we travel through the uplands to the edge of the floodplain, covering a variety of habitats, including open fields and woodland edges. Everyone is welcome. We meet at Merrimac Farm, Stone House, 15014 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and camera. Info and RSVP, (703) 499-4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 11, 1 pm, Piedmont Chapter: Warren Memorial Hospital Trail Walk, Warren County 2021 Virginia Master Naturalist Shenandoah Chapter Naturalist of the Year Sally Anderson will lead a walk on the Andreae Family Wellness & Recreation Trail.

Sunday, February 19, 1 pm, Piedmont Chapter Winter Speaker Series: Seedlings Fauquier County. Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Delaplane. Laurie Denker MacNaughton will speak on identifying plants from cotyledons and seedlings.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 1, 10 - 11 am. Winter Lecture Series - Native Plants with Nancy Vehrs. A continuing series of indoor lectures during the colder months. HOA Clubhouse: Villages of Piedmont II, 6770 Pinchot Lane, Haymarket, VA. Register here: <https://www.leopoldspreserve.com/events-1/winter-lecture-series-native-plants-2023-03-01-10-00>

Thursday, March 2, 7 pm, PWWS Meeting, Tom McCoy presents *Native Plants and Their Fungal Relationships*. More information to be sent closer to the event.

Sunday, March 5, 2 pm.
Don't miss our 11th Annual Author Event, Ruth Rogers Clausen, Author of *Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast*.
Manassas Park Community Center,
99 Adams Street, Manassas Park, VA.

JANUARY

From Dec. 13 to Feb. 5, Judy Gallagher's work will be exhibited in the Nature Photography DC/MD/VA Bird, Blooms & Beasts Group Wildlife Photography Exhibit at Green Spring Gardens Park, Alexandria. For more about this, visit: <https://www.naturephotographydcmdva.com>

Winter Lecture Series - Watersheds/Leopold's Preserve, with Valerie Huelsman. A series of indoor lectures during the colder months. Coming up: **Wednesday, January 4, 10 - 11 am,** HOA Clubhouse: Villages of Piedmont II, 6770 Pinchot Lane, Haymarket, VA. Register here: <https://www.leopoldspreserve.com/events-1/winter-lecture-series-watersheds-2023-01-04-10-00>

Thursday, January 12, 7:30 - 9 pm, In Person. Potowmack Chapter hosts a talk by Charles Smith — "Half Earth: Investing in Our Future". Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

Check with the Piedmont Chapter for the date of this January event: 1 pm. Walk at VOF-BRMNAP Fauquier County. Tour the north section of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve, not usually open to the public. Explore the plants and fungi of this special preserve.

Thursday, January 19, 7 pm, online event, "Mysteries of the Dragonflies" with Judy Gallagher. Presented by Prince William Conservation Alliance. Contact alliance@pwconserve.org

Sunday, January 22, 1 pm. Winter Speaker Series: Seedlings Fauquier County. Emmanuel Church in Delaplane. Michele Dani Sanchez specializes in seed saving and propagation and is affiliated with Kew Gardens. She will present on key principles of seed saving and propagation and will discuss some species native to Virginia that she's currently working on.



Updates on the Wild News Archives by Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair



For the November-December 2022 issue of *Wild News*, I wrote “40 Years of Treasured Native Plant Memories with PWWS and VNPS.” This was an opportunity to share some special experiences I have had with the 40 years of my activities in PWWS and VNPS. Also in that issue, there was an announcement of the scanning and posting of *Wild News* issues from 1982-2009 to complete the *Wild News* Archives. *Wild News* issues from 1982 through 2009 have been scanned and posted in the *Wild News* Archives on the PWWS website at <https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/wildnews/>. Thanks to Nancy Arrington for saving these *Wild News* issues and making them available for scanning. I was able to scan these issues as PDFs and Mark Murphy, VNPS webmaster, posted these PDFs to the *Wild News* Archives. Thanks to Mark Murphy for all he does for the VNPS website including our PWWS website.

In this article I would like to update you on the status of the *Wild News* Archives from 1982 to present and how to retrieve articles I have written over 40 years on native plant profiles and related topics, as well as articles on gardening with native plants by Nancy Arrington and articles on native plants and nature by Deanna High and others. There is now an index to these articles from 1982-2009 and a future expansion of the index will cover 2010-2022. The Index to the *Wild News* Archives from 1982 to 2009 is posted under the *Wild News* archives. In this Index you can download the issue with a particular article on native plants, gardening with native plants, and related topics. Approximately 100 of my articles on native plants and related topics are listed in this index. Some of these were reprints and have been updated but others were only published once. I am planning to update these articles in the future. Nancy Arrington had written about 60 articles on gardening with native plants, and she is planning to update these as well. All these articles are well worth downloading and reading. There are also articles by Deanna High, Jenifer Bradford, Charles Smith, and others in this index that still give relevant information on native plants and related topics. Please check out these articles listed in this index.

Also, when you revisit or visit many of these early articles for the first time, for many of these articles you will see lovely line drawings by Nicky Staunton, not only a charter member and past president of PWWS and VNPS but also a published artist. She illustrated *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* by Cris Fleming, Marion Lobstein, and Barbara Tufty and, also, *Isabella's Peppermint Flowers* by Susan Leopold.

This winter might be a suitable time to download and read (or reread) these early issues. The sense of history

and purpose of our PWWS and VNPS remained constant but has moved forward as well. You might also enjoy seeing the chapter and early members and new members adding energy and innovative ideas. You can see how certain activities have continued such as annual plant sales, member wildflower garden tours, walks, registry site development, etc. but other activities that have not continued to the same extent or that have been added. Also, in issues of *Wild News*, you can follow the development of checklists of wildflowers and woody plants of Northern Virginia (see *Botanizing with Marion* to view these reformatted checklists) which was an early project in the 1980s carried with the help of Marie Davis and the continuing support for the Flora of Virginia Project beginning in the late 1990s.

The VNPS *Bulletin* issues are also available online and again it is interesting to peruse these early issues to see the history of the state organization as well as the role PWWS members have played and still play at the state organization level. Many of our PWWS members have served on VNPS early boards Nancy Arrington, Claudia Thompson Deahl, Nicky Staunton, and Marion Lobstein or as presidents, Nicky Staunton and Nancy Vehrs.

To download and peruse the archives of PWWS *Wild News* and the VNPS *Bulletins*, you can see how a seed of an idea of conservation and appreciation of native species germinated, blossomed, and bore fruit for both PWWS and VNPS.

The rich content of the 40 years of *Wild News* issues are the results of the dedicated efforts of Nancy Arrington (1982-early 1998), Nancy Vehrs (much of 1998 to early 2005), Deanna High (most of 2005 to early 2017) and Brigitte Hartke (since most of 2017 to the present). Thanks to each of these talented PWWS members for all the dedicated work you invested and continue to invest in our *Wild News* resource.

MANY THANKS to our VNPS Technology Director, Mark Murphy. Mark keeps the websites running smoothly, posting our newsletters and photographs. Recently, Mark has been instrumental in making all of the *Botanizing with Marion* articles available to the public on our PWWS website. It's a big job since the articles span many years of our Society.



A Personal Perspective

on the Two Benches Dedicated by PWWS
at the Deep Cut Site in
Manassas National Battlefield Park

Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair

In the early 1990s I was introduced to the Deep Cut site in Manassas National Battlefield Park in late summer by Carrie Blair and Jocelyn Sladen of the Piedmont Chapter of VNPS. I had botanized in other parts of the MNBP in the spring with my spring semester Regional Flora classes such as the Stone Bridge site but had not fully explored the Deep Cut site. I was immediately taken with the variety of native plants there and began keeping plant checklists. We used these checklists in making the case for various sites of the Manassas National Battlefield Park to become part of the VNPS Registry site (<https://vnps.org/virginia-native-plant-registry-sites/manassas-national-battlefield-park/>)

Most years I have led walks there for our PWWS chapter, inviting other local chapters as well. This was a site I used for fieldtrips for summer wildflower classes I taught at NVCC-Manassas. I continued to add to the checklist and use it for the walks as well as share with MNBP staff. You can view the checklist on the website under the Checklist category of Botanizing with Marion.

Our PWWS board voted to place two benches under an oak tree that is the only source of shade in late summer along the trail. As the chapter Botany Chair and board member, I voted to support this idea. When we held the dedication on November 17, '22, I was there when the first bench was uncovered and dedicated, and then Nancy Vehrs started speaking about dedicating the second bench for an individual; to my total surprise, I realized the bench was being dedicated in my honor! This is an honor that means a great deal to me. I look forward to enjoying this bench in the future and hope to share it with many people. Thank you so much to my wonderful PWWS friends.

Photos taken on the day of the benches dedication at Deep Cut by Janis Stone, Brigitte Hartke:



Additional Information on "Botanizing with Marion"

Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair

Also, check out the updated "Botanizing with Marion" feature on our website. <https://vnps.org/botanizing-with-marion/> This was the idea of Deanna High who was our *Wild News* editor from 2005 through the beginning of 2017. When the *Flora of Virginia* was published in 2012, Deanna proposed this feature that would include additional information to accompany the plant profiles I was updating with the taxonomic changes of the Flora. It would also include articles I wrote to give the history and reasons for these taxonomy changes as well as additional references, images, and expanded updates of the articles. This last year, our current editor Brigitte Hartke suggest we might revisit this feature to provide more detailed botanical information on the taxonomic changes. Mark Murphy agreed this might be a good idea. This summer Marion worked with Mark and her former student and friend Linda Wilcox to begin working on this idea. This fall the initial version of this feature was added to the PWWS website menu. An announcement of this new feature was included in the November-December 2022 issue of *Wild News*. This is still in the developing stages and will continue to be added to and updated. *Below is a screen capture of the format of the site.*

As you can see, there are links under four major categories: Native Plant Profile, Botany and Taxonomy, Plant Checklists, and Projects. Thanks to Donna Murphy for organizing the links to the articles in the first two categories. Currently these are the articles from the last 10 years but access to early articles will also be added in the future. The Checklists category includes background on developing the three checklists for Spring Wildflowers of Northern Virginia; Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Virginia, and Summer and Fall Wildflowers of Northern Virginia that I developed in

the 1980s and originally published as booklet. These are now reformatted. Thanks to Marie Davis for her typing and editing she did to make these checklist booklets possible. The taxonomy was the taxonomy used in the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora* which predated the Flora of Virginia project. You can use your Flora of Virginia App to cross-reference the scientific names. Other checklists will be added as well.

The category of Projects provides information on the development and resources for the *Flora of Virginia*, information and link to the wildflower video *Spring Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic Region* (by Marion Lobstein, John deMary, and Susanne Lohr), information on *Finding Wildflowers of the Washington-Baltimore Area* (by Cris Fleming, Marion Lobstein, and Barbara Tufty), information on my activities with the Virginia Academy of Science that set the stage for involvement in the Flora of Virginia Project), special areas of research on spring wildflower life cycles, exchanges of medicinal plants between the Old and New World, the role of plants with the settlement of Jamestown, and other programs, PowerPoints, and documents relating to native plants and related topics. Additional information and images by Nicky Staunton from *Isabella's Peppermint Flowers* will be added. There are even some of my watercolor paintings of flowers, critters, and landscapes under the project site.

I would like to thank Deanna High, Mark and Donna Murphy, Linda Wilcox, Brigitte Hartke, and Nancy Vehrs. The image at the top of the site is by Nancy Vehrs. This is under development, so please check back for new postings

I hope sharing this information from my 40 years with VNPS, 45 years with Virginia Academy of Science and 37 years of teaching at NVCC and classes and volunteer activities at Blandy Experimental Farm will add to your knowledge and appreciation of our incredible flora and botanical history of Virginia.



Browse Marion Lobstein's articles, observations, notes, and botanical work over 40 years with VNPS



Native Plant Profiles



Botany & Taxonomy



Plant Checklists



Projects

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 83, Manassas, Virginia 20108-0083



**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 5, 7:30 pm, Via Zoom
Annual Member Slideshow**

A Wildlife Pond If You Build One, They Will Come

In your dreams of spring, is there a native-plants-surrounded pond in any of them? This marvelous, informative YouTube video may have you thinking that you, too, can do this. Watch how wildlife photographer Stefano Ianiro goes about building a pond to attract and support wildlife. The resulting visitors and their activity were beyond what he'd hope for. If you enjoy this video, Ianiro covers more of his adventure in other videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LvaX748pVI>

Here, a link to a short video of birds singing in cold weather, their breaths escaping with their songs.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDqFNU-uV_U

*HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY,
PRINCE WILLIAM
WILDFLOWER SOCIETY!
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Eight months ago, I built this Wildlife Pond to try to attract and help out some of the local wildlife.